

Objects: Direct Objects

An **object of a verb** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that completes the meaning of a **transitive verb**—a verb that expresses an action directed toward a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

- 2j.** A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells *who* or *what* receives the action of a transitive verb or shows the result of the action.

A direct object answers the question “Whom?” or “What?” after a transitive verb.

EXAMPLES I gave the **books** to Harrison. [Gave what? *Books*.]

Don't forget **Hans** and **Kate**. [Forget whom? *Hans* and *Kate*.]

EXERCISE A Decide whether the underlined words in the following sentences are direct objects. If the word is a direct object, write *DO* above the word. If it is not a direct object, write *NDO*.

Example 1. Medieval knights often rescued ^{*DO*} people in danger.

1. The nobles wore steel armor and helmets.
2. He was a successful warrior thanks to his great war horse.
3. Women in splendid gowns attended the tournaments.
4. A knight would often throw a scarf to his lady during the events.
5. People of the Middle Ages respected chivalry, bravery, and honor.
6. Medieval students studied the craft of alchemy.
7. Travelers took shelter in a castle or monastery.
8. Educated nobles enjoyed the tales of Chaucer and the poetry of Petrarch.
9. King Edward III's son was the Black Prince.
10. King Edward III started a war with France.

EXERCISE B Underline the direct objects in the following sentences.

Example 1. Knights endured dangerous Crusades to foreign lands.

11. In 1346, trading ships carried infected black rats into Italian ports.
12. Fleas on the rats spread a dangerous disease.
13. The bubonic plague killed thousands throughout Europe until 1352.
14. It attacked people of all ages.
15. Medieval doctors found no cure for the plague.